

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully ask for reconsideration of both this application and the outstanding Office Action dated October 28, 2005. A response to this office Action was due by January 28, 2006. Accordingly, Applicants are concurrently filing a Petition for a one month extension of time. Applicants also are submitting a Request for Continued Examination. Please consider this Amendment as timely filed.

I. Summary of Claims

Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 14-21 have been cancelled in a prior amendment. New claims 22-38 are presented.

The following claim rejections were submitted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action:

- Claims 1, 4, 5, 9-11, 15, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over a combination of Japanese Patent Number 11-265282 to Ichinose and U.S. Patent Number 5,651,132 to Honda, et al.;
- Claims 2 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over a combination of the Japanese Patent and U.S. Patent Number 5,657,301 to Yoshikawa, et al.;
- Claims 3 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over a combination of the Japanese Patent and U.S. Patent Number 5,581,485 to Richmond;
- Claims 6, 12, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over a combination of the Japanese Patent and U.S. Patent Number 5,603,056 to Totani; and
- Claims 8, 14, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over a combination of the Japanese Patent and U.S. Patent Number 5,307,346 to Fieldhouse.

Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are now moot. Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 14-21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 22-38 are presented.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the personal interview granted by the Examiner and his supervisor. This Amendment is presented in accordance with the substance of that interview. In particular, new claims 22-38 include the language discussed during the interview relating to remapping information for remapping data used by a new version of a vending machine control program. As agreed to during the interview, none of the references previously cited against the claims teach or suggest the features of the invention. Applicants therefore submit that the previous rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9-11, 15, 16 and 18 are not applicable to any of new claims 22-38, and that new claims 22-38 are in immediate condition for allowance.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore courteously ask that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be allowed.

This Amendment is being timely filed by facsimile transmission on February 28, 2006. Should any additional fees be necessary for consideration of this Request or to otherwise maintain the pendency of this application, including any fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and §1.17, the Commissioner is requested to charge deposit account number 19-0733 for the payment of the such fees. If anything further is desirable to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned representative at (503) 425-6800.

Respectfully submitted,

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